

### REMARKS

The Office Action of September 17, 1999, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the rejections contained in the final rejection of April 27, 1999, are repeated.

Turning now to the arguments presented by the Examiner, applicants incorporate herein by reference the arguments presented against these rejections in the last filed amendment.

Applicants take issue with the Examiner's position that the references were only argued separately. Applicants wish to point out to the Examiner that each of the references was addressed individually and then on page 8 beginning with line 14 of the amendment, the combination of the references was addressed. As one can see from the section of the last amendment referred to above, applicants respectfully submit that there is nothing in the teachings of the references which suggests the modifications to the main reference (Kobler, et al.) as proposed by the Examiner. Applicants assert that the only way one would arrive at the presently claimed invention from the references relied upon by the Examiner is by impermissible hindsight reconstruction of the invention.

The Examiner is correct that the Tittgemeyer reference discloses a sleeve shaped printing form that can be used for endless printing. However, Tittgemeyer does not teach forming the printing sleeve from a flat rectangular base plate by bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that the two edges of the base plate face one another and can be welded together. The type of sleeve as disclosed by Tittgemeyer is a relatively expensive sleeve produced by a galvanic process. The expense of such cylinders is indicated in the background

portion of the reference. Tittgemeyer has a completely different objective than the presently claimed invention. The object of the present invention is to provide a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms which despite its relatively inexpensive and simple manufacture (i.e., from flat metal sheets), has the same capabilities (endless printing) as the much more expensive and complex to manufacture Tittgemeyer-like sleeve. There is no teaching by Tittgemeyer for processing the entire outer surface of the sleeve along with the crown so that endless printing (in spite of the weld seam) is possible.

As has been previously discussed, the Kobler, et al. reference provides no teaching concerning a weld seam that is processed on its outer surface.

Fantoni, et al. provides no teaching concerning a weld seam.

The patent to Johnson only deals with a continuous surface in connection with a channel-free surface.

There is nothing in the teachings of these references which suggests combining any of the teachings thereof to arrive at the presently claimed invention. Although the prior art does teach a sleeve with a weld seam, this sleeve is only disclosed in connection with providing a channel-free surface, however there is no teaching for producing a sleeve for endless printing which has a weld seam, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations, as well as those provided in the previous amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the various rejections of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

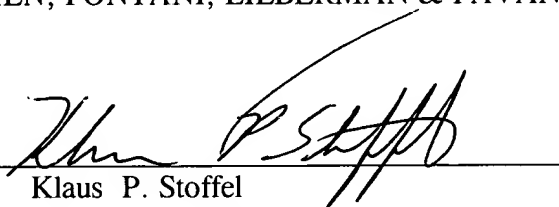
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Klaus P. Stoffel', is written over a horizontal line.

Klaus P. Stoffel

Reg. No. 31,668

551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210

New York, New York 10176

(212) 687-2770

Dated: January 18, 2000